AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method of reducing the recurrences of acute exacerbations of chronic bronchitis (AECB) in a patient in need thereof comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin mesylate.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin mesylate sesquihydrate.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein gemifloxacin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered as an acute treatment.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein gemifloxacin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered as an elective treatment.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein gemifloxacin is administered orally at a dose of 320 mg (calculated as the free base) once daily for 5 days.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the patient is suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

8. (Original) A method of reducing the severity of recurrences of acute exacerbations of chronic bronchitis (AECB) in a patient in need thereof comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin mesylate.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin mesylate sesquihydrate.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 8 wherein gemifloxacin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered as an acute treatment.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 8 wherein gemifloxacin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered as an elective treatment.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 8 wherein gemifloxacin is administered orally at a dose of 320 mg (calculated as the free base) once daily for 5 days.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 8 wherein the patient is suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

15. (New) The method according to claim 4, wherein gemifloxacin is administered orally at a dose of 320 mg (calculated as the free base) once daily for 5 days.

16. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein gemifloxacin is administered orally at a dose of 320 mg (calculated as the free base) once daily for 5 days.

17. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered orally daily for five days.

18. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the patient had from 1 to 4 AECBs in the last year.

19. (New) The method according to claim 4, wherein the patient had from 1 to 4 AECBs in the last year.

20. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein the patient had from 1 to 4 AECBs in the last year.

21. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered orally daily for five days.

22. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the patient had from 1 to 4 AECBs in the last year.

23. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the patient had from 1 to 4 AECBs in the last year.

24. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the patient had from 1 to 4 AECBs in the last year.

25. (New) A method of reducing the recurrences of acute exacerbations of chronic bronchitis (AECB) in a patient in need thereof, comprising:

administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the patient, and

conducting a long-term follow-up of the patient;

thereby reducing the recurrences of AECB in the patient.

26. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein gemifloxacin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is administered orally at a dose of 320 mg (calculated as the free base) once daily for 5 days.

27. (New) The method according to claim 26 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin mesylate.

28. (New) The method according to claim 27 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin mesylate sesquihydrate.

29. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein the long-term follow-up is for a six month period following the start of gemifloxacin therapy.

30. (New) The method according to claim 25, wherein the long-term follow-up comprises performing a clinical assessment of the patient during week 4-5, week 12, and week 26 following the start of gemifloxacin therapy.

31. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein gemifloxacin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is administered orally at a dose of 320 mg (calculated as the free base) once daily for 5 days.

32. (New) The method according to claim 31 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin mesylate.

33. (New) The method according to claim 32 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin mesylate sesquihydrate.

34. (New) A method of reducing the severity of recurrences of acute exacerbations of chronic bronchitis (AECB) in a patient in need thereof, comprising:

administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the patient, and

conducting a long-term follow-up of the patient;

thereby reducing the recurrences of AECB in the patient.

35. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein gemifloxacin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is administered orally at a dose of 320 mg (calculated as the free base) once daily for 5 days.

36. (New) The method according to claim 35 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin mesylate.

37. (New) The method according to claim 36 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin mesylate sesquihydrate.

38. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the long-term follow-up is for a six month period following the start of gemifloxacin therapy.

39. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the long-term follow-up comprises performing a clinical assessment of the patient during week 4-5, week 12, and week 26 following the start of gemifloxacin therapy.

40. (New) The method according to claim 39, wherein gemifloxacin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is administered orally at a dose of 320 mg (calculated as the free base) once daily for 5 days.

41. (New) The method according to claim 40 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin mesylate.

42. (New) The method according to claim 41 comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of gemifloxacin mesylate sesquihydrate.